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For Immediate Release

Excise Officers Arrest 12, Cite Two Businesses in Evansville

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (Aug. 31) – Indiana State Excise Police officers arrested 12 people and cited two businesses in Evansville this weekend.

Excise officers arrested nine minors for illegal possession or consumption of alcohol. One of them was also arrested for false informing. Two adults were arrested for furnishing alcohol to minors and one minor was charged with possession of marijuana.

Hooters, 4620 Lincoln Avenue, was cited on a preliminary charge of sale of alcoholic beverages to a minor after officers found Steward David, 19, of Sturgis, Ky., in possession of alcohol inside the restaurant. Davis was jailed on preliminary charges of illegal possession of alcohol and false informing. Hooters was cited Nov. 17, 2013, for having an unlicensed employee and on April 11, 2011, for sale of alcohol to a minor, having an unlicensed employee and failing to complete a manager's questionnaire form.

Guzzler's, 3500 Hogue Road, was cited on preliminary charges of tobacco enticements and failure to post two tobacco-related signs. Guzzler's has no previous violations.

A 20-year-old Evansville man was arrested on a preliminary charge of possession of marijuana after he threw a medicine bottle onto the ground after he saw a uniformed excise officer approaching a group of people with alcoholic beverages. The bottle contained marijuana that the man said he was trying to hide from the officer.

Excise officers issued seven warnings, including four for illegal possession or consumption of alcohol, two for aiding a minor to possess alcohol and one for possession of false identification.

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana's Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

All respondents are to be presumed not liable until, and unless the plaintiff can prove by preponderance of the evidence the respondent's liability in an administrative hearing.